

JFK Hearings — A Skeptical View

By Philip Nobile

Who killed John F. Kennedy? The Warren Commission, the largest criminal investigation ever conducted in this country, decided the killing was the deed of a lone gunman.

Despite mountains of evidence pointing to Lee Harvey Oswald's guilt, the American public, according to several polls, doesn't accept the Warren Commission's verdict. After years of benign neglect, Congress voted two years ago to conduct its own inquiry, adding Martin Luther King's murder to the agenda at the insistence of the Black Caucus.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations begins its hear-

The Nation

ings on the JFK matter in September. Is there any reason to expect the truth of Dallas to emerge?

Not according to Bob Katz, a founder and director of the Assassination Information Bureau, a Washington-based organization that has advised and monitored the committee's investigation.

Katz feels that the House Committee will continue the long cover-up.

Q. What are the chances that the House Assassination Committee will solve the mystery of JFK's murder?

A. Probably none. My skepticism is based on the suspicion that the committee wouldn't dare ex-



Many Americans don't believe Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone

pose the inner workings of the official coverup. For a governmental agency like this committee to reveal the ultimate truth of the JFK assassination would require the government to investigate itself in the kind of depth that we can never expect to see.

Also, I don't think the committee has done the basic investigative work that could have disclosed the real killers.

Do you mean that the committee has neither the intent nor

the will to push its investigation all the way?

Precisely. The committee interpreted its mission merely to clear up the lingering doubts the American people have regarding the King and JFK killings. So they have looked at the critiques of assassination experts like ourselves and tried to patch over the weaknesses of the Warren report instead of pursuing the unanswered questions. Had the committee hired real investigators rather than upwardly mobile Washington bureaucrats, they would have had the resources to make major forward progress in cracking these cases.

Failing the ultimate truth, will the committee shed more light on the perplexing single-bullet theory?

A serious study of the autopsy records would examine the feasibility of the single bullet entering JFK's back and exiting up through his throat and then smashing into Governor Connally's wrist. This is a critical issue in determining whether Oswald acted alone.

Why not?

By destroying the single-bullet theory, and thus the lone assassin theory, the committee would leave the door open to a conspiracy, which it cannot afford to do. Rather, I expect the committee to support the single-bullet theory with new contrivances, beyond the contrivances of the Warren Report.



James Earl Ray is still fighting his conviction for the King murder

If Oswald was shot because he knew too much, I don't suppose there are too many witnesses still alive who could tell the story of Dallas.

Absolutely. People who know too much are in danger. George de Mohrenschildt, Oswald's Russian friend in Dallas, died mysteriously just as the committee was about to interview him. Sam Giancana and Johnny Roselli, the two Mafia figures involved in the CIA's attempt to kill Castro, were murdered before they could talk to the Church committee.

Despite the slim possibility of getting an insider to confess, I still believe the committee could come up with some answers by focusing more on the coverup than the crime. That's what the Watergate investigation did.

Unlike Oswald, James Earl Ray wasn't murdered himself. Yet he hasn't come forth with a

credible story in the past ten years. Therefore I wonder if Oswald would ever have confessed had he lived?

Oswald seemed eager to talk

but Ray does not. If Ray is guilty of this supposed racially and politically motivated murder, why hasn't he made any political statements in the last ten years? Yet, if Ray, like Oswald, is a patsy or the front man

for a conspiracy, why is he still protecting the higher-ups? That's the real question. And the best bet is that his family, perhaps his brother Jerry, was also involved in the conspiracy.

Tue., September 5, 1978